

REMARKS

Restriction Requirement

Applicants herein acknowledge the restriction requirement in the above-referenced application. Claims 1 through 18 are currently pending in the application. The Office has identified the following groups of claims as being drawn to separate inventions:

Group I – Claims 1 through 8, drawn to a device, classified in class 257, subclass 48.

Group II – Claims 9 through 18, drawn to a method, classified in class 438, subclass 11.

Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I, claims 1 through 8, without traverse. Applicants further note that claims 9 through 18 are not drawn to a method, but rather to a product-by-process. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of claims 9 through 18 in a divisional application.

Please Note Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants wish to draw the Examiner's attention to the Information Disclosure Statement filed with the Office on **October 20, 2003**, and respectfully request that the documents or other information referenced therein be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form be returned to the undersigned attorney evidencing same.

Should any of the documents, or portions thereof, be unavailable to the Examiner for any reason, please contact the undersigned attorney, who will supply same immediately by facsimile or other suitable method of delivery.

Preliminary Amendment

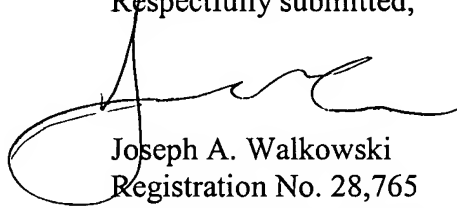
Applicants' undersigned attorney notes the filing herein of a Preliminary Amendment on January 16, 2004, which filing was not acknowledged in the outstanding Office Action. Should

the Preliminary Amendment have failed for some reason to have been entered in the Office file, Applicants' undersigned attorney will be happy to have a true copy thereof hand-delivered to the Examiner.

CONCLUSION

An early Office Action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Walkowski', with a large, stylized loop at the beginning.

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JAW/djp:ljb

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